



Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

**Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2011
 The University of Texas at Austin
 Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
 2405 Robert Dedman Drive
 Austin, Texas 78712**

The Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders met on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at The University of Texas Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Drive, Austin, Texas, 78712.

<p><u>Council Members Present</u> Ronald DeVere, MD Carlos Escobar, MD Carolyn Casey Frazier, RN Frank Genco, HHSC Representative Rita Hortenstine Deborah S. Hanna, Chair Grayson R. Hankins The Honorable Clint Hackney, Vice-Chair Debbie Kane, RN, MSN, DADS Rep. Susan Rountree, MD Kate Allen Stukenberg Lauri Kalanges, MD, MPH, DSHS Rep. Melissa L. King Robert A. Vogel, MD Angela Hobbs-Lopez, DO, DSHS Rep. Winnie Rutledge, DADS Rep.</p> <p><u>Council Members Absent</u> Ray Lewis, DO</p>	<p><u>Guests Present</u> Adolfo Valadez, MD, MPH Jim Hinds, MPA, TARC Robert Barber, Ph.D., UNTHSC-Fort Worth Sid O'Bryant, Ph.D., TTUHSC Rick Schwertfeger, MAT, DSHS</p> <p><u>Staff Members Present</u> Susan Ristine, MSHP, DSHS Cattina Horn, DSHS</p>
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1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Excuse Absent Members

Debbie Hanna, Chair

Debbie Hanna called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Ms. Susan Ristine called roll and a quorum was present. Members and guests were welcomed.

2. Approval-Council Minutes - September 22, 2010

Debbie Hanna, Chair

Debbie Hanna asked Council members to review the minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting. Dr. Ronald DeVere moved that the meeting minutes be approved as presented. Dr. Carlos Escobar seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

3. Introduction of New Council Member – Debbie Kane

Debbie Hanna, Chair

Ms. Hanna welcomed Debbie Kane, RN, MSN to the Council and asked her to introduce herself. Ms. Kane reported that she is employed with Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and is the Nurse Program Manager for the Quality Monitoring Program. The Council welcomed Ms. Kane.

4. Update on 2012-2013 Department of State Health Services Support for the Alzheimer's Disease Program, Implementation of 2010-2015 Texas State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease, and the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

Dr. Adolfo Valadez

Dr. Adolfo Valadez, Assistant Commissioner for the Division for Prevention and Preparedness, addressed the Council and thanked the Council members for the phenomenal work, commitment and progress they have made in addressing the burden of Alzheimer's disease in Texas.

Dr. Valadez then reported that due to the current economic climate, the state budget faced significant challenges and reductions during the last legislative session. He reported that at the beginning of the session, the base bill for DSHS was reduced by 10%, or approximately \$623 million and about 230 full time equivalents (FTEs). Dr. Valadez stated that at the end of the special session, DSHS had a total reduction of less than 3%, 117 FTEs, and \$230 million in reductions. Dr. Valadez stated that some DSHS areas had significant reductions, and that on the federal side, there have not been dramatic reductions.

Dr. Valadez reported that Preparedness had a 16% reduction and that Chronic Disease had a 10% reduction. He noted that internally, DSHS has looked at its operations to see where support can be provided across multiple priority programs, and he thanked Susan Ristine for her hard work and support on the Council and the Asthma Program. Dr. Valadez reported that reductions have been implemented in the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section, and that some employees were moved to different Branches within the Section in order to prevent lay-offs.

Dr. Valadez reported that major gaps in Medicaid funding remain. Currently, there is a \$4.5 billion gap, which will be seen in fiscal year 2012, and that there may be additional FY13 reductions in DSHS as the Medicaid gap is filled. Dr. Valadez also reported that the business franchise tax may have revenue shortfalls.

Dr. Valadez stated that as DSHS look towards the next session, there are specific processes to complete when working with the legislature on appropriations. At the agency level, Dr. Valadez

would like to facilitate a meeting with DSHS Commissioner to discuss what DSHS can do to provide support the Council and its work. In January of 2012, Dr. Valadez and the DSHS Commissioner will begin the strategic financial planning phase and he stated the he would like to have a conversation with the Council to discuss the role of the Council and the ways DSHS can continue to provide the support the Council in order to continue to help them do this most important work.

5. Discussion and Vote on Name Change of Texas Alzheimer’s Research Consortium (TARC) to “Texas Alzheimer’s Research & Care Consortium” (TARCC)

Jim Hinds

A discussion ensued regarding changing the name of the Texas Alzheimer’s Research Consortium (TARC) to the “Texas Alzheimer’s Research & Care Consortium” (TARCC). Mr. Hinds reported that this recommendation was put forth to the Council through the TARC Steering Committee, to better reflect the intent of the legislation and the nature of TARC’s work. Dr. Ronald DeVere moved to change TARC’s name to TARCC as presented. Melissa King seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

6. Presentation and Discussion of TARC Strategic Plan and TARC Site Visits

Dr. Robert Barber

Dr. Robert Barber presented on the activities of the TARC over the past year. Dr. Barber reported on the data generation achieved to date, and noted that TARC has undertaken three major experimental efforts. The first effort, through collaboration with Dr. Kirk Wilhelmsen from the University of North Carolina, is looking at two million markers across all the chromosomes. About one million of these markers are single nucleotide polymorphisms (the most common form of human genetic variation) and one million are associated with copy number variation (regions of the chromosomes that are repeated to a greater or lesser degree between individuals). Genotypes have been generated for 800 participants; 500 diagnosed with probable Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and 300 cognitively normal controls (NC). Quality control has been completed and data on an additional four million genetic markers are being imputed through combined analysis of the TARC data and existing public datasets, including HapMap I and II as well as the 1000 genomes project. The second experimental effort is being conducted through Dr. Christie Ballantyne, the Chair of the Department of Cardiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston Texas. Dr. Ballantyne has measured lipids and metabolic factors in serum samples from 300 AD and 300 NC participants. Analytes measured in the Ballantyne lab include total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, VLDL, triglycerides, C-peptide, homocysteine and HbA1C. The third experimental effort involves measurement of the concentrations of 152 serum proteins in 200 AD and 200 NC participants. These measurements were conducted in collaboration with Rules Based Medicine, in Austin Texas.

The TARC Strategic Plan

There was a meeting held December 2010 in Dallas to redevelop the plan and the vision statement to lead Texas in the global fight against Alzheimer’s and related disorders. The three main strategic goals that were defined were research, care and education goal. Specific measureable objectives were developed for each goal and deadlines for reaching these objectives were set.

